THE SECOND OSWALD NEW SECRET MEMO FROM THE CIA

By Bob Katz

For years investigators into the John Kennedy assassination have alleged the existence of a "second Oswald," an operative using the name of Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico and Texas at a time prior to the Dallas shooting. True to form, proponents of this theory have been labeled as paranoids too heavily influenced by James Bond. Now, on a tip from assassination expert Donald Freed (whose book on Mrs. Hunt is due soon and whose screenplay on the JFK shooting had to be locked up every night) we have obtained a recently declassified CIA document which appears finally to confirm the second Oswald theory and lend further credence to the hypothesis that John Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy and for a reason.

It is Warren Commission document 631, previously classified "SECRET." It contains an *October 10, 1963* CIA report on Oswald in Mexico and an attached memorandum to the Warren Commission from CIA director Richard Helms. The report reads: "On 1 October 1963 a reliable and sensitive source in Mexico reported that an American male, who identified himself as Lee OSWALD, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring whether the Embassy had received any news concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington. The American was described as approximately 35 years old, with an athletic build, about six feet tall, with receding hairline." With the exception of the receding hairline, none of the description fits Oswald, who was 24 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a slender build.

Moreover, in his memo to the commission, Helms alludes to a photo the CIA had of the man entering the Soviet Embassy (apparently the CIA secretly photographs all traffic at the embassy) and concludes that, based on press photos of Oswald after the assassination, the man who identified himself as Lee Oswald in Mexico City was not, in fact, Lee Oswald. The Helms memo, dated March 24, 1964, implies that the agency was in the process of checking out the Mexico City Oswald when the assassination occurred, and the photos of Oswald arrested in Dallas did not correspond to the man using the name of Oswald photographed in Mexico City. The CIA report never reveals to

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whom Oswald "identified himself" and by whom he was described.

It is believed by some investigators that the assassination was at least partially planned in a series of meetings in Mexico in the summer and fall of 1963, and it appears the real Oswald took several trips there during that time. The Warren Commission acknowledged only one such trip.

All told, there are at least 23 CIA and FBI documents classified secret and withheld from the public pertaining to Oswald in Mexico. These documents are classified for security reasons, like the Pentagon papers, and one can only wonder why, if Oswald was truly a crazed lone assassin, this material is still secret ten years later.

The second Oswald is a bizarre and intriguing aspect of the JFK assassination, for if there was an Oswald impersonator, the events in Dallas were just not as simple as the Warren Commission would want us to believe. The Warren Commission hearings were replete with indications of another Oswald — an Oswald test-driving a car when it was known Lee Harvey could not drive, a rather ostentatious Oswald practicing at a rifle range when the real Oswald was in Mexico — all of which indicate more than a simple and non-significant lone assassin. So with this newly declassified CIA document we see a once "far-out" theory move a step closer to substantiation. There is, however, a vast body of research on the assassination which was never far-out and which inevitably indicated CONSPIRACY.

WARREN PEACE

The Warren Commission, which concluded that the acts of Oswald and his slayer Jack Ruby were the isolated acts of maniacs, had a problem from the start. The police found an old Italian bolt action rifle which they attributed to Oswald. From the 8 mm. Abraham Zapruder home movie taken of the fatal motorcade it was possible to determine the time span from the first shot to the last, for the film, which viewed the presidential limousine during the shooting, moves at 18 frames per second. The commission found out that the shooting lasted for less than six seconds. Allowing no time for aiming, the Oswald rifle could fire an absolute maximum of three shots in this time period. It was known that the President was wounded in the neck and possibly the back, that Governor John Connally of Texas, seated in front of the President, suffered a bullet through his

ribs, wrist, and thigh, and that Kennedy was killed finally by a shot to the head. It was also known that one bullet missed completely, injuring a spectator. Some quick calculation was necessary to preserve the lone assassin hypothesis.

The commission came up with the single bullet theory, which maintains that the wounds to Kennedy's neck, and Connally's ribs, wrist, and thigh, were all caused by one bullet, for only thus could the number of shots be limited to three. But this theory, upon which all arguments against conspiracy rest, is easily discredited. The Zapruder film clearly shows that Connally reacts to a wound a full half-second later after Kennedy is hit, too long a reaction time for one bullet to have hit both and too short a time for Oswald to have fired twice. The Zapruder film also reveals Kennedy being blasted violently backward after the shot to the head, totally inconsistent with Oswald's alleged position to the rear.

The existence of at least four shots is itself sufficient to technically prove conspiracy, but there is also a considerable amount of eye-witness testimony to indicate that gunfire came from a source other than the Texas School Book Depository. Most of this testimony was either covered up or systematically ignored by the Warren Commission. Some two-thirds of the 80 eye-witnesses interviewed by independent investigator Mark Lane felt that shots came from the grassy knoll located in front of the motorcade. Several of these witnesses, located around the grassy knoll, were certain that bullets came directly over their heads.

Following the shooting, many spectators in the grassy areas bordering Elm St. charged up the knoll in the search for the killers. The story of three well-aimed shots from the sixth floor window of the Book depository is basically a fiction designed to assure the public that, though the President was dead, the country would roll along with nothing changed.

The case against Oswald was made by the Dallas Police, the press, and the Warren Commission, and presented to the public in brainwash fashion. Lies were displayed as documented fact. Most people listed to media accounts of the government investigations believe that the case against Oswald was clinched, believe that there were witnesses who saw him shoot the President and later a Dallas patrolman J.D. Tippit. The key witnesses against Oswald — Howard Brennan and Helen Markham — were shaky and confused and needed considerable prodding from the Warren Commission lawyers to brand Oswald. The evidence that Oswald fired the rifle that day was nonexistent. Though Oswald owned the rifle, the government was unable to prove that he had ever purchased bullets for it. The famous photo of Oswald holding the rifle, and a copy of Daily Worker (it was a cover picture on Life) has been proved phony by an investigator named Raymond Marcus. The face is the wrong size for the body; the shadows are inconsistent. When it was shown to Oswald in jail,

he said the photo was of his face but the body wasn't his.

Among the first bits of information distributed about the suspect Oswald was that he was a Communist, a pro-Castro crusader. He had defected to Russia (a curious few months after his release from the Marines) and his wife was Russian.

Though he did no shooting, Oswald provides the best, tangible link to what really went on, for he most certainly played the role, willing or not, of patsy. The point the media hammered into us about Oswald was that there was no conspiracy but, if there was one, it was the Commies who did it. In fact, Oswald was quite probably a paid informer and infiltrator for the FBI (a fact brought to the commission's attention by Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr) and had numerous ties to the CIA-infested Cuban underground responsible for the Bay of Pigs and the Watergate. Oswald enjoyed special privileges from the government after his defection to Russia (where he was probably a spy during the old U-2 days), such as having the State Department pay for his return to the US and the issuance to Oswald of a passport in the startlingly short time of one day, despite a prohibition against giving passports to defectors. It is against this background that the newly declassified document and the still secret Oswald files provoke interest, for as the truth seeps out in the John Kennedy assassination, we are permitted an increasingly clear look into the murky world of espionage politics that removed JFK and sponsored the Watergate.

THE FBI ABOVE, THE MUD BELOW

These are the days of Watergate, and as the tenth anniversary of the assassination rolls around, it is reassuring to note that times really haven't changed. Like the biology textbook cut-away of a bee hive, revealing, unbeknownst to the bees, their secret lives, the Watergate investigations have uncovered a world of snooping and spying and dirty tricks, a world which researchers have for years been insisting was responsible for the assassination. Students of the assassination have felt pangs of *deja vu* as they watched the tale of Watergate and the cover-up unfold. Nixon's firm reluctance to relinquish the White House tapes certainly has a strong precedent in the efforts of the government and Time-Life to suppress and make unavailable the Zapruder film. Time-Life bought the film from Zapruder for close to $1 million and has consistently refused to distribute it or show it in any public way. The attempts to buy the silence of the Cubans and to coerce other Watergaters into perjury seem but a sanitized re-run of the heavy pressure applied to "difficult" Warren Commission witnesses like Warren Reynolds, who was shot mysteriously in the head two days after he failed to cooperate with an FBI interview.

Did Dorothy Hunt die in that Chicago plane crash because she knew too much about her husband's activities? How about Oswald, Ruby, David Ferrie, and many witnesses to the assassination, all dead?

The Senate committee is hopeful this fall of getting to the bottom of it, but if and when they do, there are still miles to go. For the question persists: Who killed John Kennedy?

Bob Katz has written and lectured extensively on the John F. Kennedy assassination.